CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A computer system comprising:

one or more client computers connected to a global-area computer network;

a transport gateway computer connected to the global-area computer network;

a plurality of server computers connected to the transport gateway; and

a transport gateway computer program executable by the transport gateway, the transport gateway computer program comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a file transfer request from a client computer;

selecting a repository on one of the server computers based on one or more routing tokens in the file transfer request, wherein the routing tokens include one or more attributes describing the file, the client computer or an originator of the file transfer request; and

performing the requested file transfer.

2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for determining whether an originator of the file transfer request is verifiably known.

3. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for determining whether an originator of the file transfer request is authorized to performed the requested file transfer.

4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the file transfer request is received by the transport gateway from the requesting client computer using a first communication protocol and the file transfer request is sent by the transport gateway computer to the selected repository using a second communication protocol.

5. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

establishing a communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository; and

sending a corresponding file transfer request to the selected repository, including information forwarded from the requesting client computer's file transfer request.

6. The computer system of claim 5, wherein the file transfer request is an upload request and the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

relaying the file content from the requesting client computer to the selected repository;

receiving a corresponding file upload response from the selected repository;

forwarding information in the file upload response to the requesting client computer; and

terminating the communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository.

7. The computer system of claim 5, wherein the file transfer request is a download request and the transport

gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

receiving a corresponding file download response from the selected repository;

forwarding information in the file download response to the requesting client computer;

relaying the file content from the selected repository to the requesting client computer; and

terminating the communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository.

8. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the requesting client computer connects to the transport gateway computer over the global-area computer network using an HTTP or HTTPS communication protocol and the transport gateway computer connects to the server computer storing the selected repository using an HTTP, HTTPS or FTP communication protocol.

9. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the client computers connect to the global-area computer network through a firewall and/or a proxy computer.

10. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the transport gateway computer connects to the server computers through a firewall and/or a proxy computer.

11. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the global-area computer network connects to the transport gateway computer through a firewall and/or a proxy computer.

12. A method of transferring file information between one or more client computers and one or more server

computers over a global-area computer network, the method comprising:

receiving a file transfer request from a client computer;

selecting a repository on one of the server computers based on one or more routing tokens in the file transfer request, wherein the routing tokens include one or more attributes describing the file, the client computer or an originator of the file transfer request; and

performing the requested file transfer.

13. The method claim 12, further comprising determining whether an originator of the file transfer request is verifiably known.

14. The method claim 12, further comprising determining whether an originator of the file transfer request is authorizedto performed the requested file upload.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the file transfer request is received using a first communication protocol and the file transfer request is processed using a second communication protocol.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

establishing a communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository; and

sending a corresponding file transfer request to the selected repository, including information forwarded from the requesting client computer's file transfer request.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the file transfer request is an upload request and the method further comprises:

relaying the file content from the requesting client computer to the selected repository;

receiving a corresponding file upload response from the selected repository;

forwarding information in the file upload response to the requesting client computer; and

terminating the communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository.

18. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the file transfer request is a download request and the method further comprises:

receiving a corresponding file download response from the selected repository;

forwarding information in the file download response to the requesting client computer;

relaying the file content from the selected repository to the requesting client computer; and

terminating the communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository.

19. A computer-readable storage medium comprising a routing computer program executable by a transport gateway connected to one or more client computers and one or more server computers, the transport gateway computer program comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a file transfer request from a client computer;

selecting a repository on one of the server computers based on one or more routing tokens in the file transfer request, wherein the routing tokens include one or more attributes describing the file, the client computer or an originator of the file transfer request; and

performing the requested file transfer.

20. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for determining whether an originator of the file transfer request is verifiably known.

21. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for determining whether an originator of the file transfer request is authorized to performed the requested file transfer.

22. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the file transfer request is received by the transport gateway from the requesting client computer using a first communication protocol and the file transfer request is sent by the transport gateway computer to the selected repository using a second communication protocol.

23. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

establishing a communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository; and

sending a corresponding file transfer request to the selected repository, including information forwarded from the requesting client computer's file transfer request.

24. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the file transfer request is an upload request and the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

relaying the file content from the requesting client computer to the selected repository;

receiving a corresponding file upload response from the selected repository;

forwarding information in the file upload response to the requesting client computer; and

terminating the communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository.

25. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the file transfer request is a download request and the transport gateway computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

receiving a corresponding file download response from the selected repository;

forwarding information in the file download response to the requesting client computer;

relaying the file content from the selected repository to the requesting client computer; and

terminating the communication path between the transport gateway computer and the selected repository.

26. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the requesting client computer connects to the

transport gateway computer over the global-area computer network using an HTTP or HTTPS communication protocol and the transport gateway computer connects to the server computer storing the selected repository using an HTTP, HTTPS or FTP communication protocol.

27. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the client computers connect to the global-area computer network through a firewall and/or a proxy computer.

28. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the transport gateway computer connects to the server computers through a firewall and/or a proxy computer.

29. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the global-area computer network connects to the transport gateway computer through a firewall and/or a proxy computer